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SUBJECT: DPP Candidates Suffer Setback

1. Recent newspaper polling indicated that southern DPP candidates have suffered a serious setback in terms of popularity after the opposition exposed a picture of former Presidential Office Deputy Secretary-general Chen Che-nan gambling with former KRTC Vice Chairman Chen Min-hsien in a Korean casino. The photo suggested not only that Chen Che-nan has been lying about his relationship with Chen Min-hsien, but also buttressed the opposition's allegations about Chen Che-nan's role in the KRTC scandal. Although Chen Che-nan has been expelled by the DPP, allegations against him of corruption have exposed DPP candidates to an increased challenge in the upcoming 3 in 1 elections.

2. According to a China Times poll conducted on October 26, compared to last month, the popularity of DPP candidates in Chiayi City and Pingtung County dropped sharply. In Chiayi City, DPP mayoral candidate Chen Li-chen's popularity dropped from 30 percent to 19 percent whereas KMT candidate Huang Min-hui's popularity increased from 29 percent to 38 percent. Regarding the candidates' chances of winning, 28 percent of the respondents believe the KMT candidate will win whereas 14 percent believe the DPP candidate will win.

3. This new election trend breaks the previously tense neck-to-neck race in the Chiayi mayoral election. KMT Chiayi City Chapter officials said although the polling result is encouraging, they will continue campaigning hard since 34 percent of the voters have not decided for whom to vote. DPP Chiayi City Chapter officials said that they are still optimistic about the election, noting that DPP supporters only really reveal their preferences at the voting booth.

4. In Pingtung County, DPP candidate Tsao Chi-hung's popularity dropped from 23 percent to 16 percent while the popularity of KMT candidate Wang Chin-shi and independent candidate Soong Li-hua remain unchanged at 19 percent and 11 percent respectively. Regarding the chances of winning, 21 percent of the polled still said they would bet on the DPP candidate winning whereas 9 percent of the polled would bet on the KMT and 9 percent would bet on the independent candidate.

5. It is worth noting that the percentage of Pingtung voters who said they would not cast ballots has increased from 6 percent to 13 percent. Election analysts pointed out that the increase coincidentally equates with the decrease of DPP candidate's popularity, noting the increase was mostly comprised of strong Pan Green supporters that feel disappointed with what they see now as a corrupt DPP administration.

THIELE

PAAL